AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A controlled public telephone communications system comprising:

a plurality of telephones at a given site;

a programmable control computer for switching, accessing, routing, timing, billing, and restricting usage of said telephones by particular individuals, said plurality of telephones being connected to said programmable control computer; and

switching means operable under control of said programmable control computer for selectively connecting said telephones with an offsite public switched telephone network via a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, wherein said telephones are connected to said offsite public switched telephone network only under control of said programmable control computer and subject to said usage restriction.

2. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein programming for said programmable control computer is distributed to at least one remote location over said VoIP network.

3. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said programmable control computer further comprises a VoIP gateway for servicing and control of VoIP communications over said VoIP network.

4. (Previous Presented) The system recited of 1 further comprising:

a plurality of given sites; and

at least one programmable control computer at each site, wherein said plurality of given sites are interconnected over said VoIP network.

5. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 4 further comprising:

a data exchange network interconnecting said plurality of given sites, wherein said telephone communications system is integrated into said data exchange network.

6.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said offsite switched telephone network is a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

7.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said offsite switched telephone network is a Private Branch Exchange.

8.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said programmable control computer further comprises a system for imposing a three-way call restriction.

9.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said programmable control computer further comprises a system responsive to a personal identification number (PIN) keyed into at least one of said onsite public telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.

10.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said gateway is an internal gateway.

11.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said gateway is an external gateway shared with other VoIP devices outside of said programmable control computer.

12.   (Currently Amended) A controlled public telephone communication system comprising:

a plurality of telephones at a given site;

a programmable control system for performing the functions of switching, accessing, routing, timing, billing, and restricting use of said plurality of telephones by particular individuals, said plurality of telephones being connected to said programmable control system; and

a switch operable under control of said programmable control system for selectively connecting said telephones with an offsite public switched telephone network via a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, wherein said telephones are connected to said VoIP network only under control of said programmable control system and subject to said use restriction.

13.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein at least some of said functions of said programmable control system are performed off of said site, through an Ethernet network interface.

14.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 12 further comprising:

a plurality of given sites, said sites being interconnected over an Ethernet network.

15.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising:

a data exchange network interconnecting said sites over said Ethernet network.

16.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 15 wherein said programmable control system includes a control computer at each site.

17.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein said offsite switched telephone network is a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN).

18.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein said programmable control system imposes a three-way call restriction.

19.　(Previous Presented)　The system of claim 18 further comprising:

a first VoIP gateway disposed between said plurality of telephones and said VoIP network; and

a second VoIP gateway disposed between said VoIP network and said offsite public switched telephone network.

20.　(Previous Presented)　The system of claim 19 wherein said three-way call detection is performed between said second VoIP gateway and said public switched telephone network.

21.　(Previous Presented)　The system of claim 16 wherein said control computer includes:

a system responsive to personal identification numbers (PINs) keyed into said telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with individual PINs.

22.　(Previous Presented)　The system of claim 16 wherein said control computer at each site includes a VoIP gateway.

23.　(Previous Presented)　The system of claim 22 wherein said VoIP gateway includes voice compression and packetization.

24.　(Previous Presented)　The system of claim 19 wherein said second VoIP gateway includes decompression and depacketization.

25.　(Previous Presented)　The system of claim 19 wherein said first VoIP gateway includes an Ethernet network interface.

26.   (Currently Amended) A control computer for connecting a plurality of telephones at a given site to an offsite public switching network via a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, said control computer comprising:

programmable means for restricting usage of said telephones by particular individuals; and

a VoIP gateway for translating signals from said telephones into data packets transmitted over said VoIP network to said offsite public switching network only under control of said control computer and subject to said usage restriction.

27.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 26 wherein said VoIP gateway includes voice compression and packetization.

28.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 26 wherein a second VoIP gateway includes decompression and depacketization.

29.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 26 wherein said VoIP gateway includes an Ethernet network interface.

30.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 28 further comprising:

a three-way call detection system for imposing a three-way call restriction, said three-way call detection system being disposed between said second VoIP gateway and said public switched telephone network.

31.　(Previous Presented)　A controlled public telephone communications system comprising:

a plurality of telephones at a given site;

a programmable control computer for switching, accessing, routing, timing, billing, and restricting usage of said telephones by particular individuals, said telephones being connected to said programmable control computer, and said programmable control computer further comprising a system responsive to a calling card number associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said numbers being keyed into said telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with individual numbers;

an off site public switched telephone network;

a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network; and

switching means for selectively connecting said telephones with said Voice over Internet Protocol network.

32. (Previous Presented) A call processing system for use in processing calls associated with a prison facility, said system comprising:

a plurality of telephone terminals disposed at said prison facility, wherein access to said plurality of telephone terminals is provided by said prison facility;

a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) gateway coupled to said plurality of telephone terminals and disposed locally with respect thereto, said VoIP gateway having a digital data network interface providing digital communication of voice signals associated with one or more of said plurality of telephone terminals with user terminals external to said prison facility; and

a processor-based system coupled to said VoIP gateway and disposed remotely with respect thereto, said processor-based system providing call control for restricting communications between said plurality of telephone terminals and said user terminals external to said prison facility according to rules established by said prison facility.

33. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein processor-based system makes a call routing determination.

34. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system checks a telephone usage restriction.

35. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system makes a PIN verification determination.

36. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system makes a billing determination.

37. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system monitors a call.

38. (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system detects a fraudulent call.

39.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said fraudulent call comprises a three-way call.

40.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system provides real time call recording.

41.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system provides centralized call control functions at a central administration location.

42.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said user terminals external to said prison facility communicate via the public switched telephone network.

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43.   (Previously Presented) A method for providing prison facility call processing, said method comprising:

coupling, via a digital data link, a centralized system providing call control functions to a prison telephone system having a voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) gateway; and

interfacing a telephone terminal of said prison telephone system coupled to said VoIP gateway with a public switched telephone network under control of said centralized system to restrict a call between said telephone terminal of said prison telephone system and a telephone terminal coupled to said public switched telephone network, wherein said telephone terminal of said prison telephone system is connected to said telephone terminal coupled to said public switched telephone network only under control of said centralized system.

44.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 further comprising:
monitoring said call to detect three-way calling.

45.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 44 wherein said monitoring said call to detect three-way calling is performed remotely with respect to said prison telephone system.

46.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system provides call recording with respect to said call.

47.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system provides billing with respect to said call.

48.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system provides routing with respect to said call.

49.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system provides caller identification checking with respect to said call.

50.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system provides three-way call detection with respect to said call.

51.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system provides fraud detection with respect to said call.

52.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system provides call monitoring with respect to said call.

53.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein said call processing system is a prison telephone system.

54.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 3 wherein said VoIP gateway is a first VoIP gateway disposed between said plurality of onsite public telephones and said IP network, the system further comprising:

a second VoIP gateway is disposed between said IP network and said offsite switched telephone network; and

a three-way call detection system disposed between said second VoIP gateway and said offsite switched telephone network, wherein said three-way call detection system performs a three-way call detection upon a telephone signal that has been depacketized by said second VoIP gateway.

55.   (Previous Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said onsite programmable control computer is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into at least one of said plurality of onsite public telephones for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.

56.   (Previous Presented) The control computer of claim 26 wherein said programmable means is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into at least one of said plurality of telephone terminals for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.

57.   (Previous Presented) The call processing system of claim 32 wherein said processor-based system is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into at least one of said plurality of telephone terminals for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.

58.   (Previous Presented) The method of claim 43 wherein said centralized system is responsive to an account associated with a personal identification number (PIN), said PIN being keyed into said telephone terminal for authorizing stored permitted telephone usage associated with said PIN.